

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4197

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT LT LI

SUBJ: PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S STATE VISIT TO LESOTHO

BEGIN UNCLAS

1. PRES AND MRS WILLIAM R. TOLBERT, JR AND PARTY OF SOME 30 LIBERIAN OFFICIALS LEFT LESOTHO JULY 4 AT END OF FOUR-DAY STATE VISIT WHICH CONSIDERED QUITE SUCCESSFUL BY LESOTHO GOVERNMENT.

2. IN SERIES OF SPEECHES AND TOASTS, PRES TOLBERT'S THEME WAS NEED FOR "UNIFIED, WHOLESOME, FUNCTIONING" SOCIETY AT NATIONAL AS WELL AS GLOBAL LEVEL. HE EMPHASIZED LIBERIA'S SYMPATHY FOR LESOTHO'S PLIGHT IN ITS PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION AND ASSURED PEOPLE OF LESOTHO THEY WERE CONSIDERED BROTHERS BY PEOPLE OF LIBERIA, REPEATING SEVERAL TIMES, "WE ARE ONE." HE STRESSED USEFULNESS OF "DIALOGUE" IN ENDING CONFLICT BUT INSISTED DIALOGUE MUST BE ON BASIS OF RECOGNITION OF HUMAN EQUALITY.

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3. LESOTHO OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY KING AND PRIME MINISTER,

EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR TOLBERT'S VISIT AND CHARACTERIZED IT AS SYMBOLIC OF THE TRUTH THAT LESOTHO IS NOT ISOLATED FROM ITS BROTHER COUNTRIES TO THE NORTH IN SPITE OF ITS UNFORTUNATE GEOGRAPHIC POSITION.

4. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF VISIT REAFFIRMED SUPPORT OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY UNGA AT SPECIAL SESSION ON RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN MIDDLE EAST, SUPPORTED LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR OAU AND LIBERATION OF AFRICA, CALLED FOR INTENSIFICATION RHODESIAN SANCTIONS, URGED PORTUGAL RECOGNIZE INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OTHER PT'S, CONDEMNED APARTHEID, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SPECIAL FUND TO HELP COUNTRIES ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY OIL SITUATION, AND AGREED EXCHANGE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES. END UNCLAS.

BEGIN LOU

5. COMMENT: GOL OBVIOUSLY HIGHLY PLEASED WITH STATE VISIT WHICH SECOND (AFTER SERETSE KHAMA'S) SINCE LESOTHO'S INDEPENDENCE AND FIRST BY CHIEF OF STATE FROM NORTH OF ZAMBEZI. GOL VIEWS SUCH VISITS NOT ONLY AS SYMBOLIC OF BREAKING OUT OF ISOLATION CAUSED BY GEOGRAPHY BUT AS SIGN OF GROWING ACCEPTANCE AMONG BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES AFTER SEVERAL YEARS IN COVENTRY CAUSED BY PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S SEIZURE OF POWER BY FORCE IN 1970. FROM CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE WE HAVE HEARD LESOTHO PLANNING FOR THREE MORE (UNIDENTIFIED) STATE VISITS IN NEAR FUTURE. END LOU.

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